



Metropolitan Offices
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Montréal Communiqué

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The opportunities for Youth program has granted \$9,000 for a project that will create 10-15 jobs and benefit some 1,000 black youngsters from the Cote des Neiges district.

The urban camp undertaking, conceived jointly by a community group and the Montreal YMCA, also calls for each child to spend at least part of his vacation on a 750-acre farm made available by a private citizen.

"Problems of the black community in Cote des Neiges are similar to those of most immigrant minority groups," notes Leroy Butcher, the YMCA community worker in charge of the project.

Butcher states that black peoples' efforts to adjust to society are made more complex by racism and its deep-rooted historical implications.

"During the summer, we hope to lay the groundwork for a program that will involve the people in identifying their rights and responsibilities so they can help influence and create the institutions that affect them", he says.

The project will draw on the Y's experience in Mile End West, where thousands of immigrants--mainly from Greece-- have become involved in meeting both short-term and long-range concerns.

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The new summertime program in Cote des Neiges will be patterned after the Y's back alley work with children in Mile End West, where parents now help set policies and develop programs to meet the needs of their youngsters.

Similar community involvement is planned for the Cote des Neiges project.

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